~'Un Carnet de Bal'~

-Invitation To Dance - Dance Card-

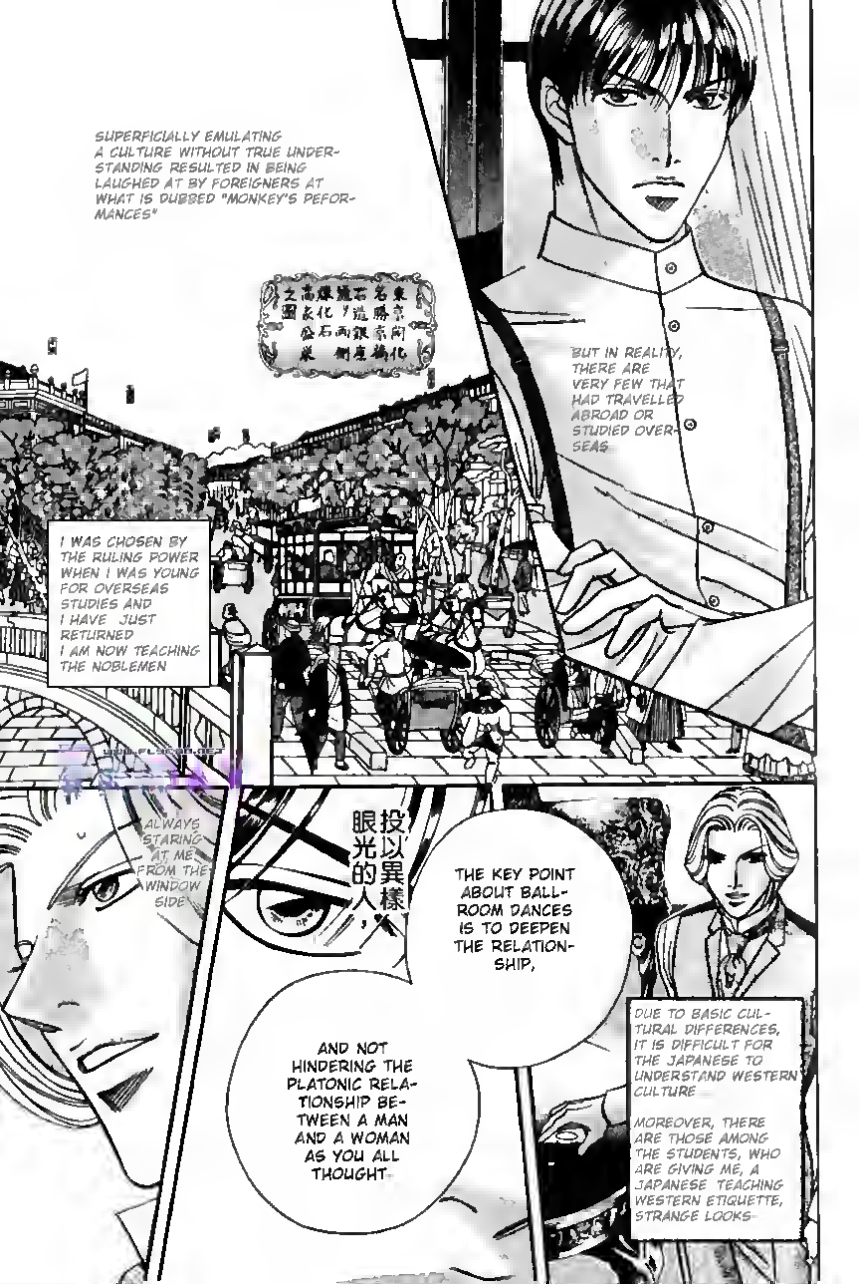
EVERYTHING HAS BECOME LIKE THIS
IT'S TOO HORRIBLE TO LOOK AT..

IT'S LIKE A WEALTHY WOMAN BEING PLUNDERED ..
IS THIS THE BEAUTIFUL *ROKUMEI KAN—.

SHOULDN'T HAVE COME... IF I HADN'T COME, I COULD HAVE PRESERVED THOSE ORIGINALLY BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES
THE LADIES ATTENDING THESE BALLROOM DANCES WILL HAVE ON THEIR WRIST A BOOKLET TO KEEP RECORD.

* T/N : HOUSE OF THE DEER'S CALL

IF THAT IS THE PERSON YOU WISH TO INVITE FOR A DANCE, THEN JUST LEAVE THE NAME CARD IN THE BOOKLET AND WAIT FOR YOUR TURN.
MEIJI YEAR 16!
AT THE MANSION OWNED BY SEIGENTN
T/N : MEIJI ERA - 1868-1912
OF COURSE, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF THE LIST,
IF THE OTHER PERSON IS WITHOUT A DANCE PARTNER, IT IS BASIC ETIQUETTE TO DIRECTLY APPROACH THAT PERSON FOR A DANCE.
IN THE BEGINNING OF MEIJI ER
MEIJI NEW GOVERMENT WITH INTENTIONS TO ADJUST TO UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS LAUNCHED ALL TYPES OF WESTERNIZATION AMPAIGN-


SUPERFICIALLY EMULATING A CULTURE WITHOUT TRUE UNDERSTANDING RESULTED IN BEING LAUGHED AT BY FOREIGNERS AT WHAT IS DUBBED "MONKEY'S PEFORMANCES"
BUT IN REALITY, THERE ARE VERY FEW THAT HAD TRAVELLED ABROAD OR STUDIED OVERSEAS
I WAS CHOSEN BY THE RULING POWER WHEN I WAS YOUNG FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES AND I HAVE JUST RETURNED I AM NOW TEACHING THE NOBLEMEN
投以異樣眼光的人
ALWAYS STARING AT ME FROM THE WINDOW SIDE
THE KEY POINT ABOUT BALLROOM DANCES IS TO DEEPEN THE RELATIONSHIP,
AND NOT HINDERING THE PLATONIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN AS YOU ALL THOUGHT
DUE TO BASIC CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE JAPANESE TO UNDERSTAND WESTERN CULTURE
MOREOVER, THERE ARE THOSE AMONG THE STUDENTS, WHO ARE GIVING ME, A JAPANESE TEACHING WESTERN ETIQUETTE, STRANGE LOOKS

I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE. THANK YOU
HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY AND SEE YOU NEXT WEEK.
KUKI-FUKAYA HE IS PARTICULAR. TROUBLESOME.
IN THE WEST, A BALLROOOM DANCE FUNCTION IS AN EVENT FOR DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS YOU SHOULD FIRST UNDERSTAND THAT.

I DIDN'T THINK THAT FUKAYA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A WESTERN OBJECT.
IT IS ONLY DUE TO YOUR OLDER BROTHER'S ADVICE THAT YOU GRUDGINGLY CAME HERE. I AM VERY HAPPY THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED.
.....IS IT THIS YOU, MASAHIRO-SAN?
YES, YOU RECOGNIZE IT?
THIS WAS GIVEN TO ME BY MY OVERSEAS FRIEND AS A MEMENTO WHEN I RETURNED TO JAPAN.
HE MADE SEVERAL REQUESTS TO ME TO MODEL FOR HIS ARTIST. I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD MAKE IT INTO SUCH AN OBJECT.

OH!
I UNDERSTAND.
I WOULD UNDERSTAND IF IT WAS GIVEN TO A FEMALE BUT WHY GIVE IT TO ME WHO IS A MAN. IT IS HARD TO GUESS HIS INTENTIONS.
WANTING TO CAPTURE YOUR BEAUTY THAT WOULD CHANGE WITH TIME...
I UNDERSTAND.....
CREATING SUCH AN OBJECT HE MUST HAVE HAD AN INTENTION SIMILAR TO THAT OF A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL
IF ...YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS OBJECT, IT WOULD BE ALRIGHT TO LET YOU HAVE IT.
WHY...

PAIR OF EYES ...
THAT RELENTLESS
REALLY! THEN, PLEASE LET ME HAVE IT!
Younger brother and I are different. He is a martial arts prodigy who has received high praise and is therefore a bit straight forward.
BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE, AS HE COULD IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND THE UNDERLYING MESSAGE OF THIS DANCE CARD
HOWEVER, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO THE FRIEND WHO GAVE ME THIS.

SO THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO THIS BOOKLET WILL ONLY RECORD THE SCHEDULE FOR THE BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES THAT BELONGS TO YOU AND ME,
ONLY WHEN YOU ARE ABLE TO LEAD ME, WHO WILL DANCE IN THE FEMALE ROLE, THEN WILL THE BOOKLET BELONG TO YOU

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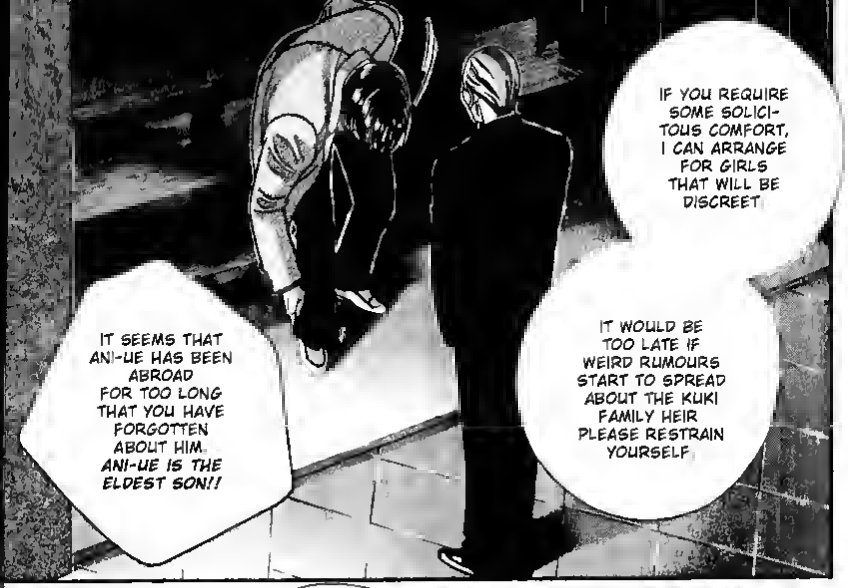
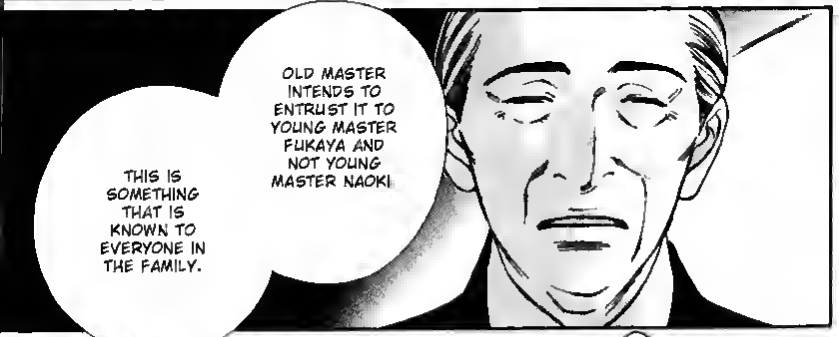
IT IS EASIER THAN TWISTING A BABY'S NECK...
RIGHT ..LEFT.... AGAIN... USE MORE STRENGTH. SUPPORT YOUR PARTNER'S BODY THAT IS LEANING TOWARDS YOU. DON'T BE SHY!!!
...THAT'S IT.
FUKAYA?

EVEN MORE SO WITH THE BEGINNING OF SEXUAL AWAKENING
TO CAUSE THE YOUNG BUCK TO GO INTO A RUCKUS

IT IS EVEN EASIER——


IF YOU REQUIRE SOME SOLICITOUS COMFORT, I CAN ARRANGE FOR GIRLS THAT WILL BE DISCREET
IT WOULD BE TOO LATE IF WEIRD RUMOURS START TO SPREAD ABOUT THE KUKI FAMILY HEIR PLEASE RESTRAIN YOURSELF
IT SEEMS THAT ANI-UE HAS BEEN ABROAD FOR TOO LONG THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM. ANI-UE IS THE ELDEST SON!!


OLD MASTER INTENDS TO ENTRUST IT TO YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA AND NOT YOUNG MASTER NAOKI
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS KNOWN TO EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY.

I DON'T CARE WHAT FATHER THINKS. I WILL DO AS I PLEASE!!

HIRAKAWA...
YOU ARE GOING OUT IN THE NIGHT AGAIN?
YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA

YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA IS ALREADY AT THIS AGE, WHICH IS WHY I CLOSE AN EYE TO MANY THINGS BUT RECENTLY, YOU WENT A BIT OVER THE LIMIT.
MOREOVER, THE GIRL CAN'T BE FROM A GOOD FAMILY IF SHE IS ONLY ABLE TO MEET AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

HIRAKAWA...
YOU ARE GOING OUT IN THE NIGHT AGAIN?
YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA.
YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA IS ALREADY AT THIS AGE, WHICH IS WHY I CLOSE AN EYE TO MANY THINGS BUT RECENTLY, YOU WENT A BIT OVER THE LIMIT.
MOREOVER, THE GIRL CAN'T BE FROM A GOOD FAMILY IF SHE IS ONLY ABLE TO MEET AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

IF YOU REQUIRE SOME SOLICITOUS COMFORT, I CAN ARRANGE FOR GIRLS THAT WILL BE DISCREET.
IT WOULD BE TOO LATE IF WEIRD RUMOURS START TO SPREAD ABOUT THE KUKI FAMILY HEIR PLEASE RESTRAIN YOURSELF.
IT SEEMS THAT ONII-SAN HAS BEEN ABROAD FOR TOO LONG THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM. ONII-SAN IS THE ELDEST SON!!
OLD MASTER INTENDS TO ENTRUST IT TO YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA AND NOT YOUNG MASTER NAOKI.
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS KNOWN TO EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY.
I DON'T CARE WHAT FATHER THINKS. I WILL DO AS I PLEASE!!

I MUST REPORT THIS MATTER TO OLD MASTER IF YOU DO NOT HEED MY ADVICE.
IT WOULD BE EASY FOR FOR OLD MASTER TO FIND OUT WHO THE PERSON IS AND FORCE HER TO LEAVE.
IF THAT IS THE CASE, YOU SHOULD ALSO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO FATHER.
IF I AM UNABLE TO MEET UP WITH THAT PERSON, I WILL CREATE SUCH A SCANDAL THAT HE WILL REGRET NOT LETTING ME MEET THE PERSON IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HIRAKAWA
YES.

YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA...
WHICH DIRECTION...?
IF OUR AFFAIR BECOMES KNOWN TO FATHER, I WOULD BE THE FIRST TO SUFFER THE CONSE-QUENCES BEFORE THE NEWS SPREAD
THE NOBILITY PLACES MORE IMPORTANCE ON THE FAMILY'S REPUTATION THAN COMPARED TO THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES. THIS IS HOW IT IS. WHAT KIND OF PUNISHMENT WOULD BE METED OUT TO ME—

カラン
FUKAYA?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK UPSET... WHAT HAPPENED?
NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE HIM NOW WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE PAINFUL...

THAT WON'T DO... WE...WILL RESTRAINT OURSELVES AND STOP MEETING.
AS I WAS LEAVING THE HOUSE, I WAS WARNED BY A MAN-SERVANT.
IF I CONTINUE COMING OUT AT NIGHT, AND MY FATHER FINDS OUT ABOUT IT, IT WILL...
YOU SAY IT SO EASILY!!
MASAHIRO-SAN, DOESN'T IT MATTER TO YOU IF YOU CAN'T SEE ME!!
HOW CAN IT NOT MATTER...?

BUT IF IT ANGERED YOUR FATHER, IT WOULD AFFECT YOUR FUTURE. THIS WOULD BE EVEN MORE UNBEARABLE.
MASAHIRO-SAN ...!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! EVEN IF I BROKE OFF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY FATHER IT WON'T MATTER!

"Yoi, yoi, the deer cries out, come and share the food. Let's play the drums and musical instruments,
because I have an honoured guest. Play the drums and musical instruments, happily harmonious and profound.
And with this wine to keep the guest happy."
WHICH POEM IS THAT?
THE BOOK OF SONG FROM QING DYNASTY.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF MINISTER SEISHOU'S PROPOSAL TO BUILD A GUEST HOUSE?
AH AH... I HEARD THAT IT IS A GUEST HOUSE THAT CATERS ESPECIALLY TO IMPORTANT FOREIGN GUESTS...
THAT'S RIGHT,
TO BUILD A GRAND AND LUXURIOUS GUEST HOUSE TO SHOW OFF THE COUNTRY'S MIGHT TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

THE GUEST HOUSE IS NAMED AFTER THIS POEM.
SFX \ BITES
HURTS ...!
IT IS SAID THAT ONCE A DEER DISCOVERS FOOD, IT WILL CALL OUT TO ITS OTHER COMPANIONS... TO SHARE THE MEAL.
THE MEANING OF THE POEM JUST NOW USES THE DEER'S NATURAL BEHAVIOUR AS AN ANALOGY TO TREAT GUESTS WITH CARE, TO SHARE THE FUN.
I HEARD THAT THE GUEST HOUSE WILL BE NAMED AS "ROKUMEI KAN"
*T/N: HOUSE OF THE DEER'S CALL
USING YOUR TEETH TO BITE MY BODY...!! AREN'T YOU BEING TOO MUCH!!
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS TOO MUCH, MASAHIRO-SAN! AT A TIME LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULD ONLY THINK OF ME!!

フッ
カッ
ANTIQUE BY YOUR

I SPENT NIGHT AND DAY THINKING ONLY OF YOU! TO THE EXTENT THAT I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING ELSE...!!
DO YOU KNOW HOW ANXIOUS I WAS WHILE WAITING TO MEET YOU!! MOREOVER, WE WON'T KNOW WHEN WE CAN MEET UP AFTER THIS TIME.
HO HO...
IT IS A PROBLEM, YOU BEING LIKE THIS I'LL BE CHASTISED. .

I SPENT NIGHT AND DAY THINKING ONLY OF YOU! TO THE EXTENT THAT I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING ELSE...!!
DO YOU KNOW HOW ANXIOUS I WAS WHILE WAITING TO MEET YOU!! MOREOVER, WE WON'T KNOW WHEN WE CAN MEET UP AFTER THIS TIME.
HO HO...
IT IS A PROBLEM, YOU BEING LIKE THIS. I'LL BE CHASTISED...

ニンゲン
コツ
コツ
カツーン
BY YOUR
ONI-SAN——!!

Konnichiwa minna-san,
Whimsy here and I hope that you have enjoyed my amateurish efforts at inputing the translation into this great manga story. Please forgive if my efforts aren't as good as the scanlation teams out there but I'm still learning.

Why I did this was because I got fed-up of trying to read the raw Chinese scans in one window and the English translation in the other window. I preferred to have everything on one page and it was a good chance for me to practise LOL! So, please ENJOY Nitta sensei's wonderful work.

Credit goes to the following:

1. Raw Chinese scans by FLYCOO.net
2. Uploaded at the community by terrygold
3. Translation by ena_taf at Eastern_Blue

舞踏會的手帖 ~Un Carnet De Bal~

新田祐克

SO LONG THEN, KUKI.
YES, SEE YOU TO-MORROW.
KERA?
KUKI...

IT'S REALLY UNBELIEVEABLE...! WHY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALLOW SUCH STRANGE STATE OF AFFAIR
MOREOVER, ALL THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER HAVE EITHER BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE OR DIED FROM UNKNOWN CAUSES... WE ARE AT OUR WITS END
IT WAS REPORTED TO THE POLICE EARLIER... BUT NOTHING WAS DONE TO THE CRIMINALS. THEY WERE RELEASED AFTER AN INVESTIGATION.
KERA! YOU CAN'T TALK NONSENSE ABOUT THIS!!
THOSE CRIMINALS THAT WERE RELEASED ARE FROM THE CHOUSHUU GROUP. THEREFORE, IT INVOLVES MOKUKO AND SEISHOU
THERE ARE ALSO RUMOURS THAT IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN THE PRINTING OF FAKE CURRENCY.
HO... DON'T EVEN BRING UP WHY THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWS IT OR NOT. THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT THE ONE APPLYING PRESSURE ON THE POLICE CAME FROM THE GOVERNMENT
KERA...
BUT MY FAMILY NOW DOES NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF BEING CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF MY EDUCATION.
ANYWAY... NO MATTER WHAT THE TRUTH IS, MY FATHER IS ALREADY AT HIS WITS END. HE COULD ONLY CRY TILL HE COLLAPSED. I AM HAPPY ABOUT YOUR CONCERN FOR MY FAMILY.

I CAME TODAY TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL I WON'T BE STEPPING FOOT INTO THE SCHOOL AGAIN.
OH YOU CAME TO SCHOOL TODAY... WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTEND CLASSES?
YOU'VE BEEN TAKING LEAVE SO OFTEN THAT WE WERE GETTING WORRIED ABOUT YOU. THAT... I HEARD THAT YOUR FAMILY SITUATION ISN'T TOO GOOD. IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
IS THERE NO OTHER WAY? THERE'S STILL A YEAR TO GO BEFORE GRADUATION. THINK OF A WAY TO HANG ON TILL THEN...!!
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF MY FAMILY'S WEALTH THAT I WAS EVEN ADMITTED TO THIS SCHOOL FOR ARISTOCRATS
EVENTHOUGH I WAS FROM THE MERCHANT CLASS NOW. WITH MY FAMILY'S FALL IN FORTUNE I WON'T BE ABLE TO GRADUATE AS I HAD HOPED
BUT... THAT IS DUE TO THE CIRCULATION OF FAKE CURRENCY IN THE CITY. THERE SHOULD BE A SOLUTION IF IT IS REPORTED TO THE POLICE?!

SORRY...
I HAVE SOMETHING ON TODAY ...
EVEN IF IT MEANS SACRIFICING IMPORTANT TIME TALKING WITH FRIENDS,
I'D RATHER SPEND THE NIGHT EAGERLY GOING TO MEET THE PERSON I LIKE.
NH
I'M BASICALLY LYING THROUGH MY TEETH...
THAT'S RIGHT... UNABLE TO MEET KERA'S EYES, I FEEL AS IF HE HAS SEEN RIGHT THROUGH MY LIES.
IN THAT CASE... IT'S A PITY.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR TONIGHT...? WORKING...?
I APOLOGISE FOR SAYING SUCH IMPRACTICAL THINGS WHEN I AM AN OUTSIDER WHO IS UNCLEAR OF THE SITUATION...
BUT I AM DIFFERENT FROM YOU I'M TOTALLY USELESS IN MARTIAL ARTS, SO, I CAN'T GO TO A MILITARY SCHOOL. I SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR A JOB.
REGARDING THIS.. THERE IS ANOTHER WAY FOR ME TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATION, AND THAT IS TO JOIN MILITARY SCHOOL.
I HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT I'M HAPPY THAT YOU ARE WORRIED FOR ME, RIGHT? AT LEAST, I'M COMFORTED BY YOUR OFFER OF SYMPATHIES.
RIGHT. ONCE WE ARE NO LONGER CLASSMATES, WE WON'T GET A CHANCE TO TALK LIKE THIS.
HOW ABOUT WE BASE OUR FRIENDSHIP AS FORMER CLASSMATES? WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT TALKING?
ERH...
AH...

.....
YOUNG MASTER
...
OOHH
...!!
HMM
...
HMM
OOHH
OOHH
...

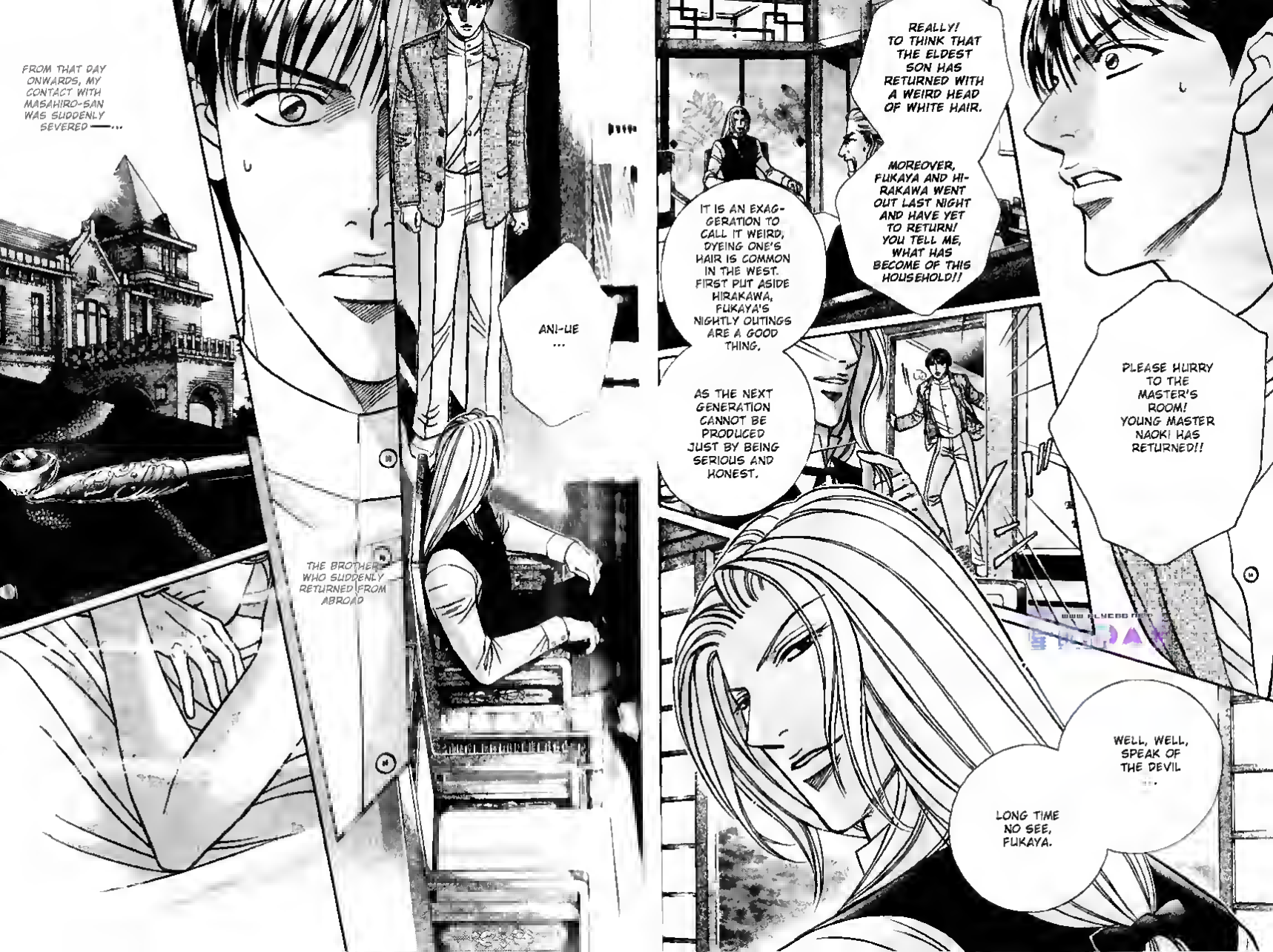
...
YOU'VE GOTTEN OLD, HIRAKAWA. YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU WERE BEING FOLLOWED.
EVEN IF THERE IS.
I WOULDN'T THINK THAT A PROUD FAMILY LIKE THE DUKE WOULD RECOGNIZE THE MARTIAL ARTS INVITED VISCOUNT FAMILY EVEN MORE SO WHEN IT'S TOWARDS THE SECOND-BORN YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT THE DUKE HAS A LIGHT IRON FUKAYA
THIS PLACE IT'S CONFIRMED THAT THIS IS THE RESIDENCE OF DUKE DAISUKE. HERE YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA COMES FOR HIS SOCIAL DANCE PRACTICE

I DON'T THINK THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT IS STILL VALID ...
I LIKE YOU ...FUKAYA SO, FROM NOW ON-WARDS, THIS REASON WOULD SUFFICE.
...BUT TODAY, BEING ABLE TO BE IN MASAHIRO-SAN'S HOUSE— IS REALLY SURPRISING.
AAHH... MY PARENTS, AS AMBASSADORS TO ENGLAND ARE CURRENTLY TRAVELLING.
I WAS BACK IN THE COUNTRY FOR LESS THAN A YEAR WHEN IT WAS THEIR TURN TO GO... I TRULY FEEL THAT WE AREN'T DESTINED TO BE TOGETHER.

YES...!! HA AH...
ON ASPECT OF SOCIAL DANCING... CLEARLY... NO IMPROVEMENT
ONLY IN THIS HAVE YOU BECOME SO PROFICIENT
YOU ARE REALLY BOTHERSOME
BECAUSE... IF I KNEW HOW TO DANCE... THERE WOULD BE NO MORE VALID REASONS TO MEET UP WITH MASAHIRO-SAN.

儘管連帶刀都被允許，但還是不希望你了武士的根基。
作個偷拿的就可以從松岡那拿下一勝真了不起！
hank you
A SLIGHT SMILE ALWAYS APPEAR ON ANI-UE'S FACE, WHO USUALLY LOOKS AT ME WITH SEEMINGLY EMPTY, BLACK PUPILS
IN MY YOUNG HEART, I WAS BOTH RESPECTFUL AND IN AWE OF HIM
WHEN ANI-UE WENT OVERSEAS TO STUDY, I WAS RELIEVED ——...
AH, YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA! WELCOME BACK!!

TEN YEARS OLD SO YOUNG ... YOU MUST HAVE BEEN LONELY.
DESTINY?
THAT IN THE BEGINNING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE, SO I COULD ONLY CRY
BEFORE KNOWING NAOKI, THERE WASN'T A SINGLE JAPANESE SPEAKNG PERSON AT MY SIDE.
I WAS ONLY TEN WHEN I WAS SENT OVERSEAS TO STUDY. HENCE, TO DATE, I HAVE SPENT HALF MY LIFETIME AWAY FROM MY FAMILY.
ANI-UE WOULD ACTUALLY SAY SUCH THINGS ...
I'D OFTEN HEAR NAOKI SPEAK PROUDLY OF HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WHO WAS A PRODIGY
...WHAT ABOUT FUKAYA WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?
ANI-UE LOVED THE FLUTE MORE THAN THE SWORD A PERSON WHO LOVES DANCING MORE THAN MARTIAL ARTS ——...
I'M DIFFERENT FROM ANI-UE, I AM ROUGHER IN NATURE... THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE DISLIKED ME...


FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS, MY CONTACT WITH MASAHIRO-SAN WAS SUDDENLY SEVERED——…
ANI-UE …
THE BROTHER WHO SUDDENLY RETURNED FROM ABROAD
REALLY! TO THINK THAT THE ELDEST SON HAS RETURNED WITH A WEIRD HEAD OF WHITE HAIR.
MOREOVER, FUKAYA AND HIRAKAWA WENT OUT LAST NIGHT AND HAVE YET TO RETURN! YOU TELL ME, WHAT HAS BECOME OF THIS HOUSEHOLD!!
IT IS AN EXAGGERATION TO CALL IT WEIRD, DYEING ONE'S HAIR IS COMMON IN THE WEST. FIRST PUT ASIDE HIRAKAWA, FUKAYA'S NIGHTLY OUTINGS ARE A GOOD THING.
AS THE NEXT GENERATION CANNOT BE PRODUCED JUST BY BEING SERIOUS AND HONEST.
PLEASE HURRY TO THE MASTER'S ROOM! YOUNG MASTER NAOKI HAS RETURNED!!
WELL, WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL …
LONG TIME NO SEE, FUKAYA.

WHILE IN A FAR AWAY COUNTRY, NAOKI SPOKE TO ME ABOUT THE UNFAMILIAR MOTHERLAND,
...THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD EXPERIENCE JAPAN...
DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS, HE UNINTENTIONALLY LETS SLIP HIS INFERIORITY COMPLEX TOWARDS HIS YOUNGER BROTHER
WHO, UNLIKE HIM HAS THE PRIDE OF A MARTIAL ARTIST AND THE LOVE OF THEIR FATHER
HE WAS TERRIFIED THAT HIS BROTHER WOULD SNATCH HIS TITLE AWAY FROM HIM...
AT THAT TIME, I BECAME FAMILIAR WITH FUKAYA, WHOM I HAVE YET TO MEET...
BUT YET WHY DO I FEEL SO DIFFERENTLY NOW...
NAOKI HADN'T LIED. HE AND FUKAYA'S POSITION IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD ARE AS HE HAD PORTRAYED THEM TO BE

I AM NOT INTERESTED IN OPIUM...
DO YOU WANT SOME?
OH?

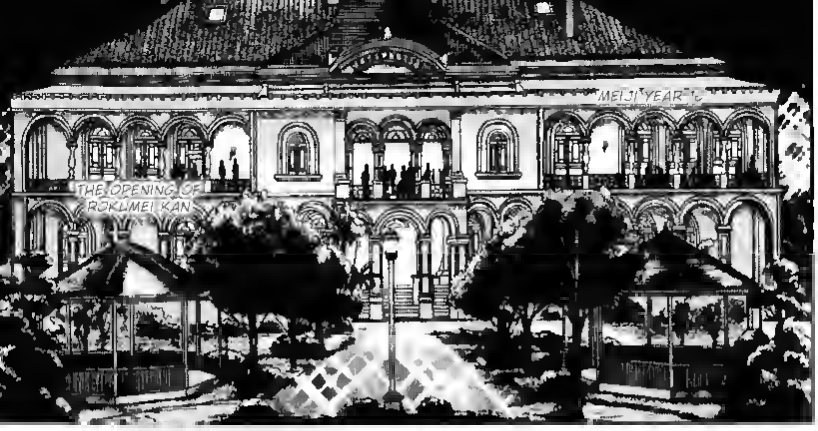
WHAT'S WRONG... MAKING SUCH PAINFUL NOISES COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE TELLING ME YOU HAD A CHANGE OF AFFECTION AND HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH FUKAYA...?
AFFECTION
CHANGE OF

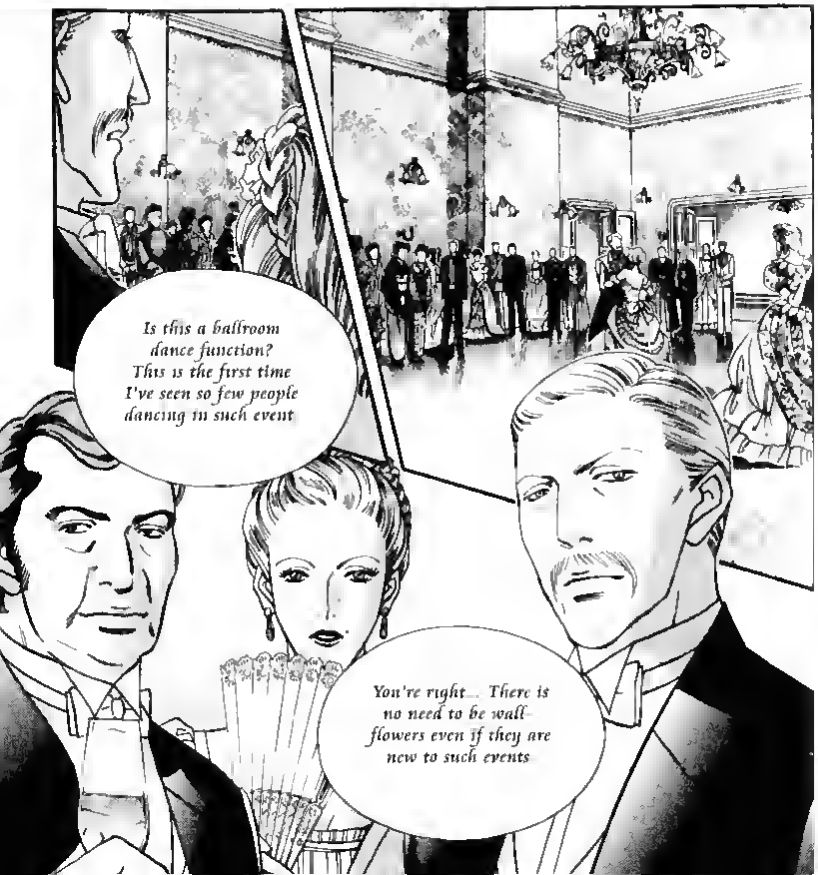
YOUNG MASTER, YOU HAVE A VISITOR. DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HIM?
I ALSO CANNOT FATHOM
AS FOR WHY, N. OKI [TELLS] ME SO MUCH REGARDING FUKAYA...

FUKAYA ...?!
WHO IS IT... DIDN'T I SAY I WASN'T FEELING WELL AND WANTED YOU TO TELL THAT TO ALL VISITORS?
I APOLOGIZE, BECAUSE THE VISITOR WHO CAME BY THE LAST FEW DAYS...
IS THE SECOND SON OF THE KUKI FAMILY, YOUNG MASTER FUKAYA.

I HAVE A PROPOSAL AND IF YOU AGREE,
I LIKE YOU.
ONCE I AM BACK IN JAPAN, I WILL
AND I WISH TO HELP YOU GET RID OF THE ROOT OF YOUR PROBLEM

AT THIS STAGE, WHAT I HAVE DONE, IS UNFORGIVEABLE




Is this a ballroom dance function? This is the first time I've seen so few people dancing in such event
You're right... There is no need to be wall-flowers even if they are new to such events

PEBBLE IN HIS LIFE ——— BECOME THE STUMBLING ……

MASAHIRO-SAMA, COULD YOU PLEASE HAVE A DANCE WITH MY DAUGHTER?
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WATCH MASAHIRO-SAMA DANCE. COULD YOU DANCE FOR ME?
NOT ONLY TO WATCH, IF YOU DON'T MIND, MAYBE LATER YOU COULD BE MY DANCE PARTNER?
OF COURSE, BUT MY DANCING IS NOT UP TO MARK.
THEN PERHAPS YOU COULD PRACTICE WITH ME FIRST. IT COULD TAKE A WHILE BEFORE MASAHIRO IS AVAILABLE.
OH... AND THIS IS?
THIS IS NAOKI-SAMA, THE ELDEST SON OF THE KUKI FAMILY.
HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ABROAD. HE LEARNED SOCIAL DANCING THERE.
Masahiro!!

Anyway, this is Japan's first international scene, and therefore, it is necessary to put up an elaborate international dinner
and costume ball to draw attention. As a businessman, I am grateful to Japan's extravagant display
Ho Ho
Eh?
SEIGENIN MASAHIRO-SAMA!
KUKI NAOKI-SAMA!

I didn't expect to see you in this place Mr. Kuki
Then we met too late
He is my friend, Kuki Naoki, the next Viscount. He also frequently appears in London's social functions.

Oh, the two of you know each other?
Yes, we met at work.

I planned to set up a trading company in Japan
COMPANY
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS BEFORE

When Masahiro left for Japan, the London social lights became dimmer.

Minister Gallan, when did you arrive in Japan?
I arrived a few days ago. I'm really happy to meet up with you again.

Ha ha ha, you are still such a flatterer. Even in days where the sun is not out, London's light never got dimmer.

Minister Gallan, is this the well-known next Duke in line? Please introduce us.
Ho ho, Masahiro, this is Mr. Peter Calengin from The Trading Company

I'm Seigenin Masahiro. Welcome to Japan.
Please, permit me to introduce to you --Naoki.

YOU'RE NOT LOOKING FOR FUKAYA ARE YOU?
THERE'S NO REASON TO SEE HIM ANYMORE. YOU BELONG TO ME.
IF YOU MEET UP WITH HIM, I WILL TELL FUKAYA ABOUT OUR AGREEMENT.
WHAT...!!
NAOKI

IT IS NOT
FUKAYA'S!
EVERSINCE NAOKI CAME BACK TO JAPAN, HE HAS SIMPLY TREATED ME LIKE A PLYTHING AND, SELDOM TALKS TO ME ANYMORE

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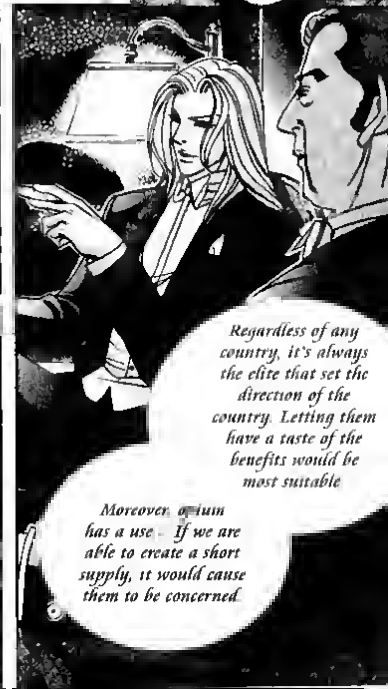
IF I'M IMPRISONED, COULD SOMETHING BE DONE ABOUT IT?
FUSAYA, I WANT TO SEE YOU SO BADLY
Therefore, the most critical aspect
would be those introduced by the present Duke
WHAT DO I SEE IN MASA BEFORE?
IF WE MEET, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU

Moreover, there are many ways to get away. This time when I returned to Japan, I brought with me a huge supply of opium
Yes, it is prohibited but there are loopholes in the legal system. Presently, opium is allowed for sale as a sedative
There is just one concern and that is, there is no guarantee that new laws won't be created in the future regarding this matter
Oh... Prohibition in trading opium
That's right. Opium can be bought at a low price and sold high with a high profit margin. But the Meiji government is prohibiting trade in opium isn't it...?

Is there any way to do it?

First, we'll have to involve those noble wives, who admire the western culture.


Regardless of any country, it's always the elite that set the direction of the country. Letting them have a taste of the benefits would be most suitable
Moreover, opium has a use... If we are able to create a short supply, it would cause them to be concerned

CREDITS

1. Raw Chinese scans by FLYCOO.net
2. Uploaded at the community by terrygold
3. Translation by ena_taf at Eastern_Blue

YAYYY!! yet another part released. I thought I'd never get it done coz the office comp kept crashing...I think it's almost time for a new one...'nyways, hope you all enjoy this next instalment of the tragic lovers. XD just the kind we like of course.

DISCLAIMER:

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RECENTLY FATHER HAS BEEN BEDRIDDEN WITH ILLNESS. ANI-UE IS IN CHARGE OF THESE MATTERS SO I AM NOT TOO SURE ABOUT IT.
I'LL ASK IF THERE IS AN INVITATION. IF THERE IS, LET'S GO TOGETHER
REALLY?! THEN PLEASE!!

I DON'T CONSIDER DOING THIS WILL LESSEN MY GUILT.
MAKING UP FOR IGNORING MY FRIEND AND CHOOSING THE PATH OF LOVE——
YET THERE IS A SENSE OF MAKING UP FOR IT.

NO, I'M HERE TO GATHER RESEARCH MATERIALS. I'M NOW WORKING IN A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING OFFICE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. WHAT'S WRONG? AT THIS TIME OF DAY, SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL?

A REPORTER? A VERY SUITABLE OCCUPATION FOR YOU, WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF WORLD AFFAIRS
ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THE "PEOPLE'S RIGHTS" CAMPAIGN?
OH... I AM A BIT UNWELL... SO I LEFT EARLIER

ERH—AH... NOT YET.
THAT'S RIGHT! HAVE YOU BEEN TO A BALLROOM DANCE EVENT AT THE ROKUMEI KAN BEFORE? YOU ARE LEARNING BALLROOM DANCING, RIGHT?
OH...I AM VERY INTERESTED IN IT AND WANTED TO GO THERE TO DO SOME MATERIAL RESEARCH, BUT IT HAS BEEN A WHILE AND THE PERMIT HAS YET TO BE GRANTED.
I HAVE RECENTLY HEARD THAT THERE WILL BE A FANCY BALL COSTUME PARTY THERE

EVERYBODY HAS MISUNDERSTOOD THE REAL PURPOSE OF A SOCIAL DANCE FUNCTION EVENT
SO TASTELESS...
IF THIS IS IT, WESTERNIZED POLICIES WILL BE HEADING TO AN END...
IS THERE ANY WATER, SOMEONE IS NOT FEELING WELL.
WATER...? PLEASE WAIT FOR A WHILE. I WILL GET IT READY FOR YOU
FUKAYA
WHY WOULD FUKAYA PARTICIPATE IN THE SOCIAL BALLROOM FUNCTION? HE HASN'T ONCE COME TO THESE EVENTS BEFORE!

I FEEL LIKE THROWING UP
IF IT IS MADE KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE...
SEISHOU WHO HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR WESTERNIZATION CAMPAIGNS WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN.
ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP THROUGH
THIS EXTRAVAGANT, LAVISH ENTERTAINMENT,
IT'S OKAY, I HAVENT BEEN IN SUCH A CROWDED PLACE FOR A LONG WHILE. I'M JUST FEELING NERVOUS.
KERA... ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT? YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD.
I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK AND LOOK FOR YOU LATER. I ALSO NEED SOME FRESH AIR.
I, AM GOING TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY, ALTHOUGH I FEEL BAD TOWARDS KLK
I'LL GO TO THE BALCONY FOR SOME FRESH AIR.

WHY!! IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME TODAY!!
WHY? DIDN'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO HIM? WHAT YOU DID TO HIM,
WAS TO ENSURE ME OF MY TITLE. THAT'S WHY YOU BECAME SO CLOSE TO HIM... SINCE THAT GOAL HAS ALREADY BEEN ATTAINED, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER WITH HIM ANYMORE, RIGHT?
NO... NAOKI !!
THANKS TO YOU, FUKAYA IS TOTALLY DE-PRESSED. I REALLY MUST THANK YOU, MASAHIRO.

NAOKI! LET'S GO NOW!
If I meet up with him —
DON'T ASK!
WHAT'S WRONG? SUDDENLY SAYING THIS WE'D JUST ONLY ARRIVED
MASAHIRO-SAN!!
SLOW DOWN, MASAHIRO, ARE YOU PLANNING TO WALK BACK? JUST CALL AND WAIT FOR THE CARRIAGE TO ARRIVE.
I KNOW. I AGREED TO IT.
THERE IS NO TIME. FUKAYA IS HERE!!
FRIDAY

IT'S ENOUGH!! SINCE FUKAYA ALREADY KNOWS, I AM NO LONGER UNDER YOUR CONTROL.
CALM DOWN, MASAHIRO, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU LEFT ME? MOREOVER, FUKAYA WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU, WILL HE?
HOWLONELY
BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HIM... I HAVE SAID IT BEFORE,
BEING FORCED TO LEAVE THE LOVING PROTECTION OF MY PARENTS AT A YOUNG AGE
... IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE NEVER FORGIVES ME! I WANT TO APOLOGIZE! TO NEVER STOP APOLOGIZING!!
YOU ARE MINE. YOU STILL HARBOUR FEELINGS FOR FUKAYA IN YOUR HEART, AND I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT.
HAVING THE DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY AS ONE OF THE CHOSEN FEW, I WAS FORCED TO GO TO A FAR AWAY FOREIGN LAND
BUT EVERYTHING I DID, WAS FOR YOU! SINCERELY ALL FOR YOU! YET YOU TREAT ME THUS. YOU ARE JUST TOO MUCH!!
YOU DEFINITELY CAN'T BE ACCUSED OF BEING THE PLAN'S MASTERMIND, AS I WAS THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA.

FUKAYA...!
WAIT. WAIT FUKAYA!!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!! IT'S NOT LIKE I WENT TO LOOK FOR FUKAYA!!

I'm here to gather research materials
I am very interested
REPORTER/ KERAKI MINORI
SIGNS OF A DECAYING NATION— COSTUME DANCE FUNCTION
THE COUNTRY'S FINANCES IS LIKE WATER FLOWING OUT
THE GATHERING OF THE ELITES AND THE FOREIGNERS IS LIKE A PLAY
BY THE TIME THE WILD ENTERTAINMENT AND EVERYTHING DISPERSED, IT IS 4 A.M IN THE MORNING
I WILL NOT SEE YOU AGAIN. PLEASE MAKE USE OF THE NETWORK I HAVE INTRODUCED TO YOU AND BUILD UP YOUR BUSINESS
PLEASE TAKE CARE
MISTAKENLY AS LOVE
AND THEN I TOOK THE WARMTH GIVEN TO MY BODY...
HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART ONCE YOU TASTED FUKAYA, IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL BEING FAITHFUL?
OH...!!

MY OBEDIENCE IS ONLY SO THAT I CAN GET THE VISCOUNT TITLE
ONCE I GET THE TITLE I WILL BE RELEASED FROM ALL HURT
COME... TAKE YOUR MEAL, FATHER. FATHER FINALLY BELONGS TO ME ONLY.

MEIJI YEAR 6
THAT SHORT EXTRAVAGANT PERIOD, AN ILLUSION OF THE BLOSSOMING OF MODERNIZATION, DISAPPEARED LIKE WAVES
SUBSEQUENTLY, IT WAS A PERIOD OF CHAOS, WITH A PUSH FOR IMPERIALISM RULE

IS FATHER'S MEAL READY? I'LL TAKE IT TO HIM.
HOW CAN . ! WE CAN'T LET YOUNG MASTER NAOKI CARRY THE MEAL!

I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR TOO LONG LET ME HAVE A CHANCE TO BE FILIAL.

I... WILL NO LONGER TRUST ANYONE .....
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ALREADY THREE YEARS, HOW TIME FLIES ...
IT'S HUMAN BONES !!
POLICE!! CALL THE POLICE !!
WHAT ARE THEY CONTRUCTING NOW?

士官學校
I WILL PASS THE MESSAGE
THEN, COULD YOU PLEASE PASS THE MESSAGE TO FUKAYA, I'LL COME AGAIN NEXT MONTH IF HE IS WILLING TO SEE ME, HE CAN CONTACT ME ANYTIME.
YES!
SIGN MILITARY SCHOOL

THE SCHOOL DORMITORY HAS ALWAYS BEEN WELL-KNOWN FOR VERY STRICT REGULATIONS REGARDING VISITORS. BY CHOOSING THIS SCHOOL, I CAN IMAGINE, THE REJECTION FUKAYA HAS FOR BOTH ME AND HIS FAMILY
AFTER THE COSTUME BALL, FUKAYA LEFT SCHOOL AND ENTERED A MILITARY SCHOOL

I KNEW THAT HE WOULDN'T MEET ME BUT STILL I CAME HERE WITH A FLICKER OF HOPE THAT HE MIGHT

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I REPEAT MYSELF BEFORE YOU ALL CAN UNDERSTAND? I DIDN'T KILL HIRAKAWA.
RELEASE HIM
WE HAVE A WITNESS ACCOUNT FROM YOUR BROTHER THAT YOU DIDN'T RETURN HOME THAT NIGHT!!
THEN WHY WON'T YOU TELL US WHERE YOU WERE THAT DAY!!
WHY!!
SOMEONE CAME FORWARD AND CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE TOGETHER ON THE DAY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE. ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL ALOT OF QUESTIONS, THEY HAVE EVIDENCE.
..THAT WITNESS IS SOMEONE WITH HIGH CREDENTIALS; WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT HIS ALIBI.

HOW IS IT?
YOUNG MASTER, I AM BACK.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS KILLED.
ALTHOUGH, THERE ARE ONLY WHITE BONES, THE CLOTHING ITSELF DOESN'T LOOK OLD.
I BRIBED SOME POLICEMEN FOR NEWS. THE PIECE OF CLOTHING WITH STABBING TEAR BEARS THE KUKI FAMILY CREST.
I'M AFRAID THAT IT IS THE MISSING MANSERVANT, HIRAKAWA-SAN.. AS FOR THE SUSPECT——...
ERH!

ON ONE HAND WHILE I UNDERSTAND THAT FUKAYA'S FURY WILL NOT BE EASILY RESOLVED,
...AS FOR HELPING ME PROVE MY INNOCENCE, THANK YOU.
...BECAUSE I NO LONGER BELIEVE IN ANYTHING
AT THE SAME TIME, I COULDN'T FORGET THAT MOMENT OF DESPAIR
BUT THAT COULD BE BECAUSE DEEP DOWN I HOPED TO {RECEIVE HIS FORGIVENESS}
IT WAS ONLY FOUR {YEARS} THAT HAVE PASSED. THAT'S WHAT I REALIZED.

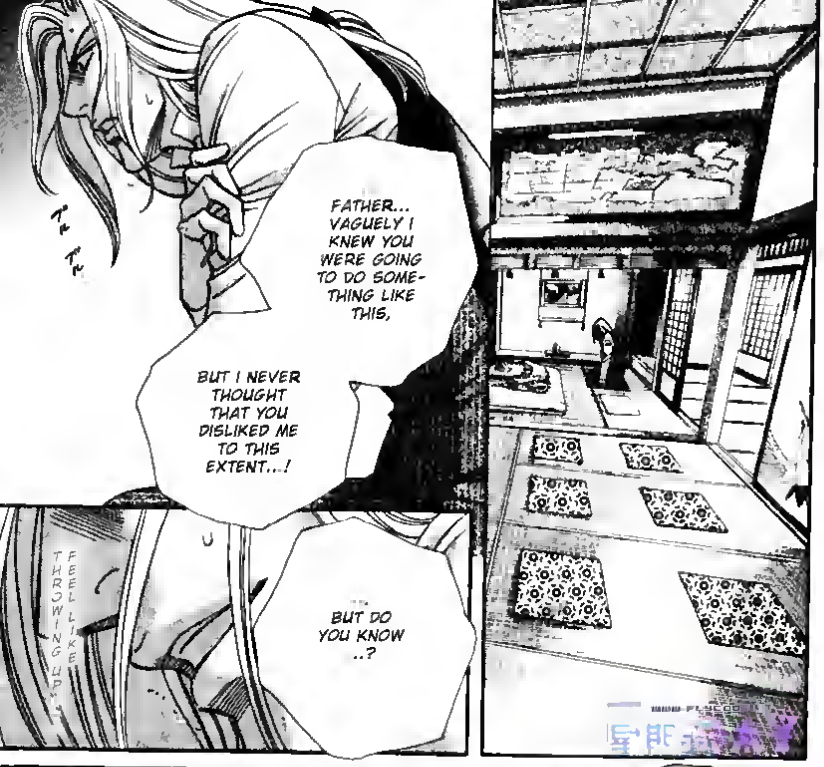
WE FINALLY GET TO MEET
AH...
THIS IS GREAT... FUKAYA, THE DANCE CARD STILL HAS THE RECORD OF YOUR ITINERARY FOR THE DAY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE. MY HOUSEKEEPER IS ALSO A WITNESS.
FUKAYA! I AM NOT ASKING YOU TO FORGIVE ME, BUT JUST LISTEN TO ME
PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING ANYMORE.

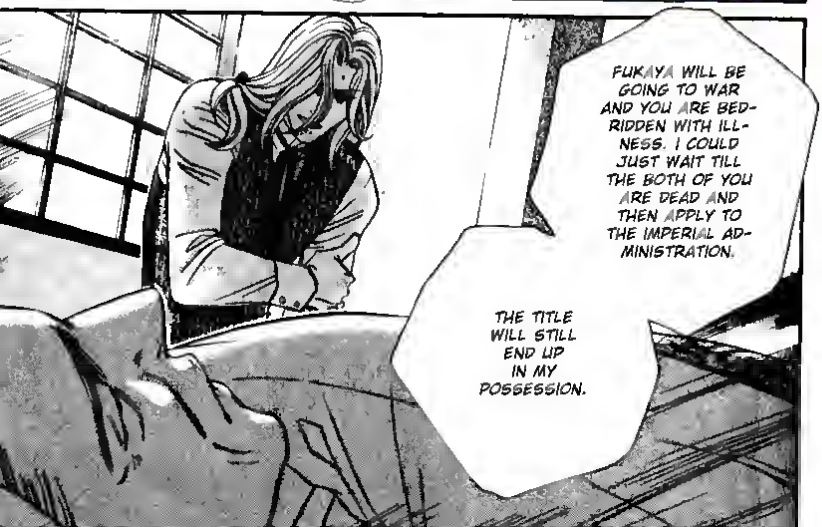
PLEASE BE QUIET!!
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE FUTURE. WITH THE WAR WITH THE QING DYNASTY COMING SOON, ALL THE MORE REASON TO CHOOSE FUKAYA, ISNT IT?
THOSE PRESENT HERE PLEASE BE QUIET AND LISTEN TO WHAT MY FATHER HAS TO SAY.
HMM.
THE VISCOUNT TITLE...

MEIJI YEAR 27
SORRY TO KEEP YOU ALL WAITING... FINALLY, A NEW HEAD OF THE FAMILY WILL BE APPOINTED.
Ah, congratulations.
NO, NO, FUKAYA WAS CLEARED OF ANY IMPLICATIONS. MOREOVER, FUKAYA IS AN OUTSTANDING LIEUTENANT IN THE ARMY.
MOREOVER, NAOKI IS THE ELDEST SON, PLUS, HE'S DOING WELL WITH HIS TRADING COMPANY. IT IS BAD TO BRING THIS UP, BUT FUKAYA IS IMPLICATED IN HIRAKAWA'S CASE
IT SHOULD BE NAOKI IF BASED ON SENIORITY. ALTHOUGH IN THE PAST THE MASTER DIDN'T QUITE LIKE HIM, BUT I RECENTLY HEARD THAT HE WAS TOUCHED BY NAOKI'S FILIAL PIETY. HE HAS ACCEPTED HIM.

FUKAYA!... I KNOW YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT NAOKI, BUT THE MASTER HAS SAID TO PASS IT DOWN TO YOU.
I DONT WANT IT! THAT IS ALL.
PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS. THERE IS NO REASON TO DECLINE THE TITLE, IS THERE?
THE VISCOUNT TITLE AND ALL OTHER RELATED MATTERS, JUST GIVE IT TO THE ONE WHO WANTS TO INHERIT IT.

GOES TO FUKAYA.
I DECLINE


FATHER... VAGUELY I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS,
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU DISLIKED ME TO THIS EXTENT...!
BUT DO YOU KNOW ..?
TURNING PALE


FUKAYA WILL BE GOING TO WAR AND YOU ARE BEDRIDDEN WITH ILLNESS. I COULD JUST WAIT TILL THE BOTH OF YOU ARE DEAD AND THEN APPLY TO THE IMPERIAL ADMINISTRATION.
THE TITLE WILL STILL END UP IN MY POSSESSION.

DON'T WANT IT?
VERY WELL THEN. I'LL JUST TAKE THE TITLE WITH ME TO THE GRAVE...
MASTER!! WHY MUST YOU IGNORE NAOKI!
AS LONG AS YOU ALL UNDERSTAND THAT I WANT NO PART IN THESE MATTERS

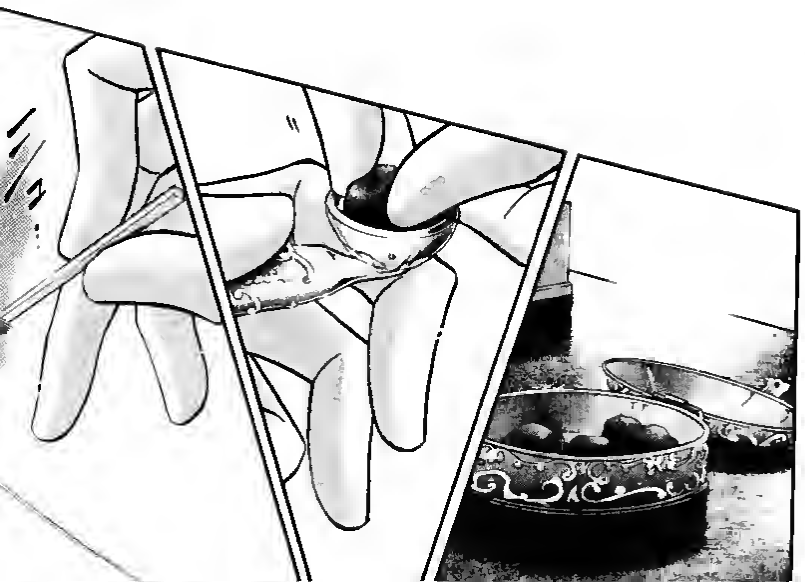
ISN'T HE AN OUTSTANDING HEIR!!
HEH..... AN OUTSTANDING HEIR ...
... EVERYBODY, LEAVE THIS ROOM LEAVE ME AND NAOKI ALONE.

BUT...IF HIRAKAWA WAS STILL AROUND, HE WOULD HOLD ON TO IT TIGHTLY AND NEVER LET IT GO. HE WOULD NEVER GIVE THE TITLE TO YOU.
...WHY MENTION HIRAKAWA AT THIS TIME...?
SINCE YOU HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT YOU WOULD WAIT UNTIL FUKAYA MEETS HIS DEMISE AND THEN PICK UP THE TITLE WHICH IS COVERED IN MUD, I'LL TAKE THE TITLE WITH ME TO MY GRAVE.
WELL THEN, IT IS UP TO YOU.

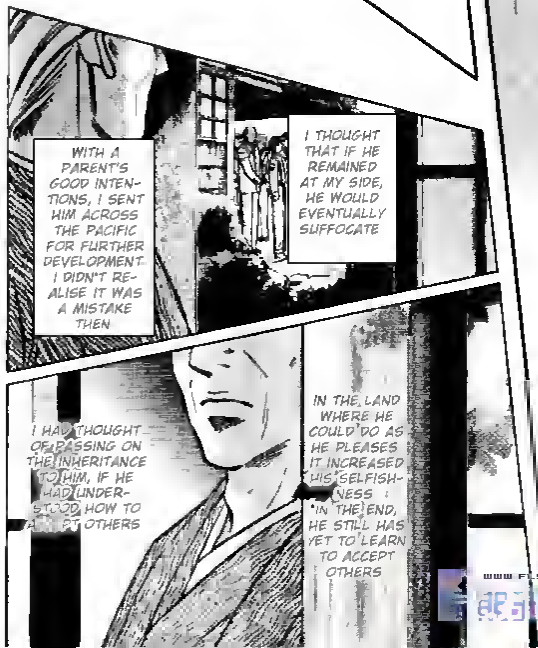
YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN IN CONSIDERATION, HE, WHO IS ON FUKAYA'S SIDE, AS A HINDRANCE, AND THUS DID SOMETHING TO HIM...
YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW?

ILLNESS... IT WAS YOU WHO POISONED ME.
YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW, DID YOU? YOU PUT POISON IN THE MEALS YOU BROUGHT TO ME.

INSTEAD OF LETTING SCANDAL SPREAD THAT I WAS BEING POISONED BY MY SON,
I'D RATHER GO ALONG AND BE POISONED TO DEATH!!
YOU... YOU KNEW...
WHY DID YOU STILL EAT IT IF YOU KNEW!!



HE DISLIKED FAMILY TRADITIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGES NOTHING OTHER THAN THOSE HE IS DEEPLY CONVINCED OF.
A SON THAT IS SO UNLIKE ME ——.
I JUST COULDN'T BE AFFECTIONATE TOWARDS HIM
YET HE DOESN'T HAVE FUKAYA'S COURAGE TO ABANDON THE FAMILY AND SET OFF TO HIS OWN DESTINY
AH AH ..


WITH A PARENT'S GOOD INTENTIONS, I SENT HIM ACROSS THE PACIFIC FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. I DIDN'T REALISE IT WAS A MISTAKE THEN
I THOUGHT THAT IF HE REMAINED AT MY SIDE, HE WOULD EVENTUALLY SUFFOCATE
I HAD THOUGHT OF PASSING ON THE INHERITANCE TO HIM, IF HE HAD UNDERSTOOD HOW TO ACCEPT OTHERS
IN THE LAND WHERE HE COULD DO AS HE PLEASES IT INCREASED HIS SELFISHNESS : IN THE END, HE STILL HAS YET TO LEARN TO ACCEPT OTHERS

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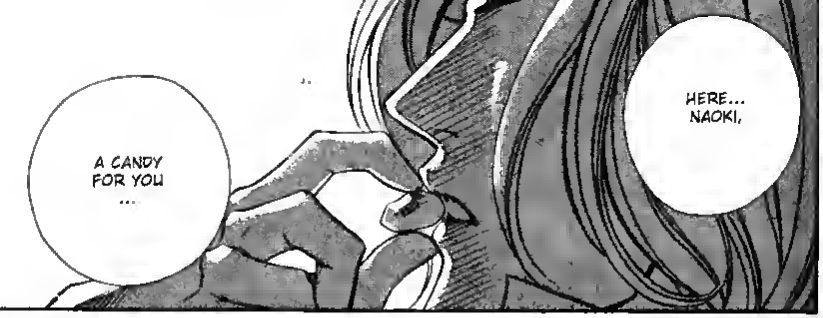
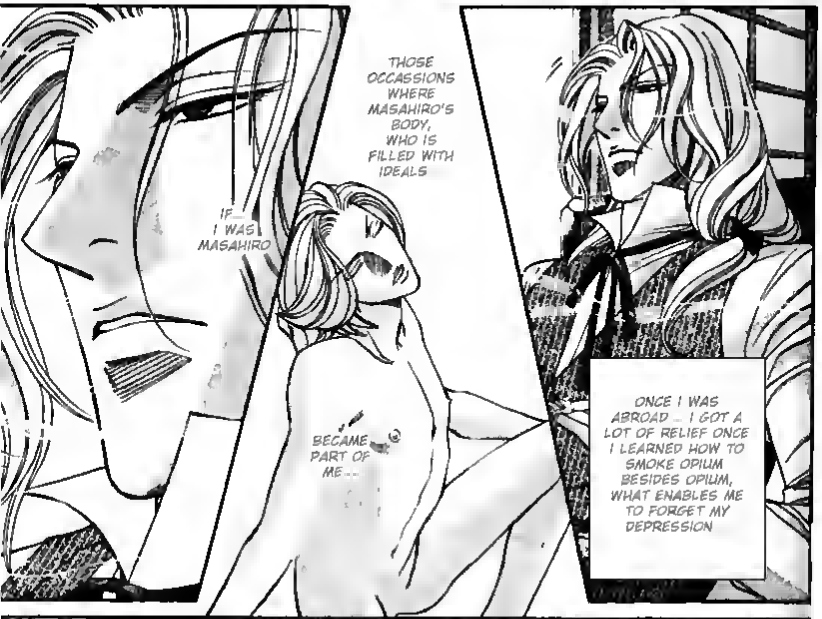
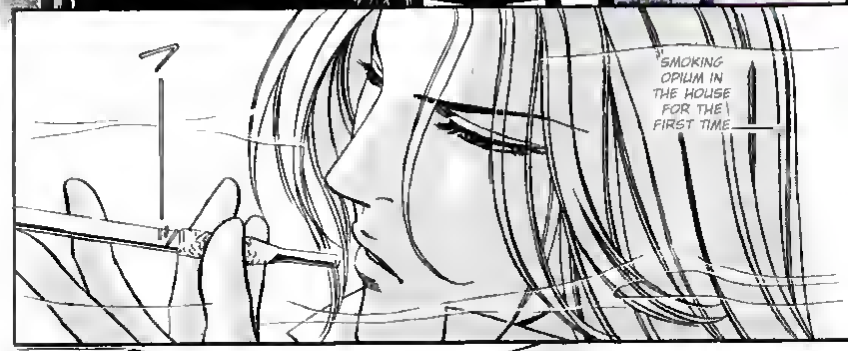
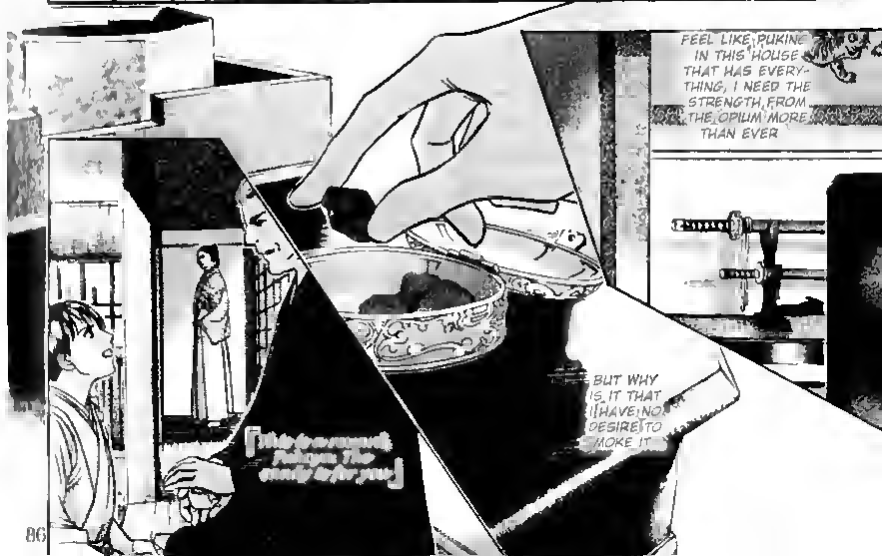

A CANDY FOR YOU ...
HERE... NAOKI,


IF I WAS MASAHIRO
THOSE OCCASSIONS WHERE MASAHIRO'S BODY, WHO IS FILLED WITH IDEALS
BECAME PART OF ME...
ONCE I WAS ABROAD... I GOT A LOT OF RELIEF ONCE I LEARNED HOW TO SMOKE OPIUM BESIDES OPIUM, WHAT ENABLES ME TO FORGET MY DEPRESSION

MY LIFE WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY, WOULDN'T IT?
IF I HAD BEEN BORN INTO A FAMILY THAT IS INTO FINE ARTS


SMOKING OPIUM IN THE HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME


FEEL LIKE PUKING IN THIS HOUSE THAT HAS EVERYTHING, I NEED THE STRENGTH FROM THE OPIUM MORE THAN EVER
BUT WHY IS IT THAT I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SMOKE IT

"PEOPLE'S RIGHTS" CAMPAIGN?
...
SO ENERGETIC!!
USING WESTERNIZATION CAMPAIGN AS A FRONT, IT IS A SET-UP TO WEAKEN THE MEIJI AND TO STRENGTHEN EUROPE AND AMERICA;
CONTINUING TO WASTE PRECIOUS COUNTRY RESOURCES!! THE MOST GLARING EXAMPLE IS THAT BUILDING ROKUMEI KAN!!
STOP THE SPEECH !!
DISPERSE!! WE WILL ARREST YOU IF YOU STILL DON'T DISPERSE!!

KERA!!
...KUKI! ISN'T THIS KUKI !!
OH.. SORRY —.

YOU MUST HAVE HATED ME, WHO CUT OFF ALL FORMS OF COMMUNICATION WITH NO EXPLANATIONS——
IT HURTS ...IT HURTS SO BADLY, MASAHIRO-SAN...
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US WAS IT ONLY A FLING ...?

MOVE ASIDE !!

CREDITS

1. Raw Chinese scans by FLYCOO.net
2. Uploaded at the community by terrygold
3. Translation by ena_taf at Eastern Blue
4. Edited by dreamers_whimsy

Just a quick note to say that some of you might have noticed that I dropped the usage of oniisan that was so prevalent in part 1 and 2 of this release. I have decided to use the more formal title of ani-ue since we are dealing with members of the aristocracy here. Corrections will be made accordingly when I release the upcoming final part.

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GROWING UP WITH THE LOVE OF BOTH PARENTS
ONE WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE TERROR
HO HO ...
IT'S GREAT... IT DOESN'T HURT...
IF THAT IS HOW IT IS, THEN FUKAYA
HAHA...
HAVING ALL THAT I'VE CRAVED FOR, YET, WILLINGLY ABANDONING IT
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA...
I'LL OFFER THIS WORTHLESS LIFE AND LEAVE THE CURSE TO YOU
HOW DESPICABLE MY LIFE IS, FOR IN MY CRAVING TO GAIN ALL THESE, I HAVE DIRTIED MY

AT LEAST BECOMING LIKE FUKAYA, A SON THAT FULFILLS FATHER'S EXPECTATIONS
AT LEAST
I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ESTRANGED FROM FATHER
ESCAPING FROM THE MOTHERLAND COLOURING MY BLACK HAIR
I DON'T WANT IT.
HATING EVERYTHING FROM HEAD TO TOE OF THIS BODY

IT ALSO DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN.
I WANT NOTHING FROM YOU, EXCEPT THIS
IT DOESN'T MATTER EVEN IF FUKAYA WON'T FORGIVE ME
FUKUYA...!!
ONLY WANT

I WILL NEVER LET YOU HAVE HIM
YOU WILL NEVER GET HIM FOR ETERNITY

MEIJI YEAR 27
THE SINO-JAPAN WAR BROKE OUT...
240,618 SOLDIERS WERE SENT TO WAR. 1594 DIED IN THE WAR.
BUT THE FIGURES FOR THOSE WHO DIED OF SICKNESS DURING THE CHAOTIC PERIOD, WAS FOUR TIMES AS MANY AS THOSE WHO DIED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
THE WAR ENDED IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, YEAR 28 BECAUSE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND PREPARATIONS WAS MUCH BETTER JAPAN SCORED A COMPLETE VICTORY OVER THE ENEMY
STAY ALIVE
Don't die
Masahiro

ONLY WANT YOU TO...

I UNDER-STAND. THANK YOU.
THIS TIME AROUND THE NAME KUKI FUKAYA IS NOT ON THE SURVIVOR'S LIST.
IT'S ALSO NOT ON THE DEATH LIST?
MEIJI YEAR 28, APRIL
JAPAN AND THE QING DYNASTY SIGNED A PEACE TREATY.
HOWEVER, DUE TO STRONG INTERFERENCE THE LOCAL SITUATIONS BECAME VERY DELICATE!
I WOULD TAKE A COUPLE OF MONTHS BEFORE THE SOLDIERS WERE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN

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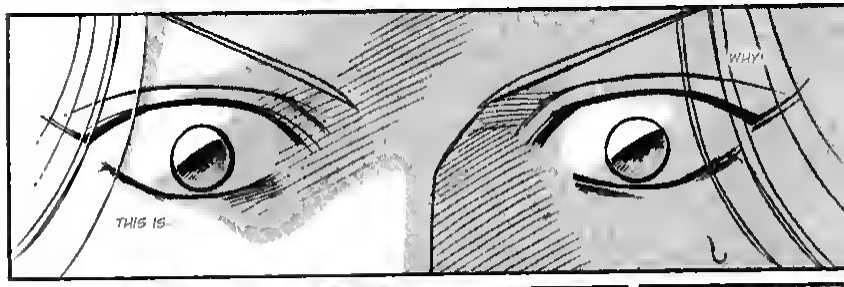
GET THE CARRIAGE READY...!!
NO NEED. I'LL GO AND LOOK FOR IT.
YOUNG MASTER, THE ROAD AHEAD IS TOO NARROW FOR THE CARRIAGE TO PASS THROUGH. PLEASE WAIT FOR A MOMENT WHILE I GO AND MAKE SOME ENQUIRIES.
IT MUST BE MY OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION...!!
IT COULD JUST BE THAT I AM TOO PAINFUL FOR HIM TO SEND IT DIRECTLY TO ME. THAT'S WHY HE ASKED SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT...


WHY!
THIS IS...

COULD IT BE...
COULD IT BE
BLOOD..?

...CAR...
YOUNG MASTER?! WHAT'S WRONG?

DEAD...
KUKI IS DEAD.
カラ
カラ

THIS IS THE ADDRESS
I'VE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HERE.
EXCUSE ME, IS ANYONE HOME?!
カミャン
カミャン
DO YOU KNOW KUKI FUKAYA?
I'M SORRY, BUT WHO ARE YOU?
カタ!
カミャン
カミャン
ニ…ン

I AM NOW KNOWN AS YUUKOBU FUKAYA. THIS IS MY HOME.
WHY BEAT AROUND THE BUSH?!
IS THIS YOUR REVENGE ON ME?!

KUKI FUKAYA NO LONGER EXISTS.
JUST BEFORE SETTING OUT TO WAR, I APPLIED TO THE ROYAL ADMINISTRATION TO REMOVE MY NAME FROM THE KUKI FAMILY REGISTRY.

THEREFORE, I WANTED TO DIE, BE REBORNED AND ALSO BE RID OF THE KUKI FAMILY NAME.
IF I DIDN'T DIE ONCE, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE.
BEFORE SETTING OFF TO WAR, I HATED EVERY-THING. I EVEN THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T MATTER IF I DIED IN BATTLE...
BUT BEING SO CLOSE TO DEATH ON THE BATTLEFIELD PUTS EVERYTHING INTO PERSPECTIVE. YOU HAVE ALREADY SPENT SO MANY YEARS TRYING TO APOLOGIZE TO ME ...
I WAS REALLY AFRAID... AND UNABLE TO FACE YOU DIRECTLY.
ALTHOUGH THE ANSWER IS OUT, I WAS STILL UNEASY. I WASN'T SURE IF I MET YOU OR CAME INTO CONTACT WITH YOU, WHAT MY REACTION WOULD BE..

DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS ABOUT YOU!
WHAT SORT OF EMOTIONS I'VE ENDURED FOR THE WHOLE YEAR ...!!
THIS IS GREAT ..! ...JUST... GREAT...

I'M SORRY ...
SORRY, FUKAYA ...!!
IT NO LONGER MATTERS... YOU MUST'VE DONE IT FOR ANI-UE.
WHEN I WENT OFF TO WAR, I HAD ALREADY UNDERSTOOD THAT MASAHIRO-SAN IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE PURSUING ON.
YOU COULD HAVE USED YOUR TITLE AND POSITION TO GET SPECIAL TREATMENT, YET YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW THAT ROUTE. YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT ME TO FEEL DISGUSTED.
I KEPT THINKING... LETTING YOU BECOME SO INFATUATED WITH ME, I HAD TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY ... AND CAME BACK.

HA HA. . IT'S REALLY MASAHIRO-SAN ..
I LIKE MASAHIRO-SAN'S LIPS.
I ALSO LIKE TO HUG YOU, THAT WAIST ... TOUCHING YOUR FLESH, MY CHEST BECOMES WARMED UP
IT'S GREAT... I STILL LIKE MASAHIRO-SAN...

REALITY SUDDENLY INTRUDED UPON THE BUDDING LOVE AFFAIR
FUKAYA INHERITING THE TITLE,
MARRIAGE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD
RUSSO-JAPAN WAR
FUKAYA WENT TO WAR FOR THE SECOND TIME
T/N: RUSSO-JAPAN WAR 1904-1905
AFTER THAT, THE MEIJI ERA ENDED, THE TAISHO ERA BEGINS
T/N: TAISHO ERA 1912-1926

FOOL,
WHO WOULD PUT IT THAT WAY
..
AND SUBSEQUENTLY AFTER THIS, A LOT OF OTHER THINGS HAPPENED IN OUR LIVES
IN A FEW SHORT YEARS FUKAYA HAS CHANGED FROM A YOUTH WHO COULD NOT FORGIVE OTHERS TO A MAN WHO IS THOUGHTFUL OF OTHERS
I COULDN'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF SO DAILY FUKAYA COULD ONLY SMILE WRYLY BUT THE DAYS WERE FILLED WITH HAPPINESS
FROM THEN ONWARDS, I SPENT ALMOST ALL OF MY TIME LIVING IN FUKAYA'S HOME.

...THERE IS NO MATERIAL OBJECT THAT IS IMPERVIOUS TO BEING DESTROYED... NOR REMAIN ETERNALLY BEAUTIFUL.
WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THOSE NOT BORN DURING THAT PERIOD AREN'T ABLE TO WITNESS THOSE BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS... ONLY WE COULD TREASURE THOSE OCCURRENCES.
ESPECIALLY AT THIS ENDING POINT OF MY LIFE WHERE I CAN LIVE TOGETHER WITH MASAHIRO... THE VIEW OF YOU REMAINING IN MY EYES, I FEEL BLESSED.
.....
AT MY AGE, I CAN'T DANCE ANYMORE. MOREOVER, I HAVE LONG FORGOTTEN THE DANCE STEPS.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IMMEDIATELY.
IN THAT CASE, DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A DANCE HERE...
FUKAYA, IN THE END, I'VE YET TO SEE YOU DANCE IN ROKUMEI KAN
...

THEN IT IS THE SHOWA ERA ——
MASAHIRO,
ARE YOU SATISFIED? IT'S TIME TO GO.
FUKAYA ...
T/N: SHOWA ERA: 1926 - 1989

THEN. HOW ABOUT THIS.
REALLY... NO MATTER HOW OLD I BECOME, I'M STILL FOLLOWING YOUR LEAD.

WWW.FLYCOO.NET

Konnichiwa minna-san, dreamers Whimsy here.
Sad as I am to say this, but this marks the end of the Un Carnet De Bal. Thank you very much for coming along with me on this journey and being so patient with any short-comings of mine. I hope that in the future, we will discover more gems like UCDB...this story really warms the heart. I love how their love spans the years and is still together even in old age..I wonder if anyone would write a fanfiction on this. I was really stricken when I realised that Fukaya may be dying of some illness or something based on what he said in the last few pages...What would poor Masahiro do without his beloved bestfriend, lover and companion of many decades?

Credits:

1. flycoo.net for the raw scans in Chinese
2. Ena taf over at eastern blue livejournal for her translation
3. Terrygold for sharing this gem with the Youka Nitta Comm.
4. Last but not least, me, :) dreamers Whimsy for the editing, cleaning etc.